

# WORK PLAN

## Elk & Deer Damage Compensation Workgroup



<b>Problem Statement &amp; Objective</b>	Elk and deer can cause considerable damage to property that can be costly for farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to repair or rectify. This workgroup seeks to develop a pilot program to provide compensation for damage in affected regions of the state.
<b>Deliverables</b>	This workgroup has two primary deliverables: (1) a <b>short report</b> that documents the workgroup process, discussions, and recommendations on the ideal structure for the pilot program as well as the appropriate level and source of funding; and (2) <b>bill language</b> for the upcoming 2024 legislative session.
<b>Timeline for Deliverables</b>	A request for bill drafting will be submitted to the Office of Legislative Counsel (LC) by their November 9, 2023 deadline.
<b>Co-Chairs</b>	Representatives Ken Helm and Bobby Levy will co-chair this workgroup under the auspices of the House Interim Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water (HALNW).
<b>Membership</b>	<p>The co-chairs selected eleven categorical groups to provide important, diverse perspectives as workgroup members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Additional legislators</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Representative David Gomberg, Lincoln and Western Benton &amp; Lane Counties</li><li>○ Senator David Brock Smith, Curry and parts of Coos &amp; Douglas Counties</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Eastern Oregon landowner perspectives on elk and deer damage</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Tim Wallender, Farmer, Grande Ronde Valley, Union County</li><li>○ Dennis Sheehy, Rancher and Ecologist, Wallowa County</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Western Oregon landowner perspectives on elk and deer damage</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Karl Zweifel, Custom Farmer, Tillamook County</li><li>○ Garth Mulkey, Farmer, Polk County</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Andrew Wildbill, Wildlife Manager</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Association of Oregon Counties</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Branden Pursinger, Legislative Affairs Manager for Natural Resources</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Private crop insurance</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Beau Reynolds, Crop Insurance Agent, AgWest Farm Credit</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Sporting organization</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Bill Richardson, Senior Conservation Manager, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</li><li>○ Amy Patrick, Policy Director, Oregon Hunters Association</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Wildlife conservation organization</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Not yet confirmed</li></ul></li></ul>

- **Oregon State University Extension Service**
  - Pete Schreder, Professor, Range Management, Wallowa County Extension
- **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**
  - Brian Wolfer, Deputy Wildlife Administrator
- **Oregon Department of Agriculture**
  - Jonathan Sandau, Assistant Director

## Timeline & Tasks

### Meeting #1

Tuesday, October 3 | 8 – 10 AM | MS Teams remote meeting

The first meeting is intended to be an opportunity to develop a common understanding of the scope and scale of the problem. Workgroup members will be asked to share their understanding of the types of damage occurring, variations in regional or seasonal impacts, and costs to redress. There will also be discussion of tools currently available to address elk/deer presence, and current sources of compensation for damage. The workgroup will identify outstanding questions that need additional information and research, and will assign workgroup members to bring that information to the next meeting. If there is adequate time available, the workgroup will also begin to brainstorm potential components of a compensation program.

### Meeting #2

Thursday, October 12 | 8:30 – 10 AM | MS Teams remote meeting

The second meeting is intended to begin investigating pilot program design. LPRO, state agencies, scientists, and other workgroup participants assigned to bring information and/or research back to the group will share their findings. LPRO and ODA will also present frameworks for how a pilot program could be structured for initial discussion and feedback from workgroup members. Workgroup members will be asked to send LPRO any additional thoughts or questions via email following the meeting, and LPRO will work with ODA and others to have relevant answers and materials distributed to the group in advance of Meeting 3.

### Meeting #3

Tuesday, October 24 | 8:30 – 10 AM | MS Teams remote meeting

The third meeting is intended to continue pilot program design work, identifying areas of agreement and areas that need further work. The work group will reconvene to discuss, ask additional questions, and provide feedback about the framework presented in Meeting 2. Key technical choices or areas of disagreement should be resolved, if possible, or tracked for additional discussion and decisions. LPRO should compile relevant feedback and outstanding decision points, and work with ODA after the meeting on an updated framework proposal in preparation for Meeting 4.

### Meeting #4

Thursday, November 2 | 8:30 – 10 AM | MS Teams remote meeting

The fourth meeting is intended as an opportunity to present a solid draft of the pilot program framework for fine-tuning feedback. LPRO/ODA will present an updated framework for the pilot program that integrates relevant workgroup feedback. The framework should be discussed with a goal of reaching consensus, if possible.

### **Additional Timelines & Tasks**

Although the workgroup will likely conclude by the first week in November, the relevant dates for bill introductions are provided here for convenience.

- **November 9 | Bill Draft Request**  
LPRO will assist with submitting a draft request to LC for a bill that would establish the pilot program.
- **January 8 | Bill Draft Return**  
A completed bill draft from LC will be received no later than January 8. When received, the draft will be distributed for review and feedback from the workgroup. If the draft is received early enough to allow for revisions prior to introduction, LPRO will work with Rep. Helm's office regarding drafting decisions.
- **January 11 | Bill Introduction**  
If it is structured as a committee bill, Chair Helm will put forward the bill draft for a vote of the HALNW committee to introduce it during the committee's January Legislative Days meeting.
- **February 5 – March 10 | Legislative Session**  
Chair Helm will schedule a public hearing and work session on the bill promptly near the start of the 2024 legislative session.

### **Staff**

Laura Kentnesse and Anna Glueder, analysts for the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO), will provide staffing for this workgroup.

Laura and Anna will work with the co-chairs to shape agendas, communicate with workgroup members, take meeting notes, maintain a website for materials, provide research as needed, and draft a final workgroup summary report and the bill language request for Legislative Counsel.

They can be reached at: [laura.kentnesse@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:laura.kentnesse@oregonlegislature.gov) and [anna.glueder@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:anna.glueder@oregonlegislature.gov).